

From: George Lawrence Storm
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/28/02 10:20pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I am opposed to the Microsoft settlement. If accepted it would penalize those schools involved, greatly reward the monopolistic practices of Microsoft and highly penalize the only creative computer developer left in the US.

As the current settlement stands Microsoft will pay virtually nothing by donating obsolete equipment which has already been written off and donating software that they never would have sold.

This settlement places a significant financial penalty on those schools that would be foolish enough to accept this farce. It is a fact that support costs for the windows platform are on the order of ten to one. If we were to accept the notion that this "donation" was one billion dollars the schools involved would need to raise ten billion dollars to support the hardware, software and training needed to support it during the very short life remaining in it.

If however a cash fine of one billion was made with that cash going to the purchase of new Macintosh hardware and software those same schools would only need to raise three billion, six hundred million, a bit more than a third the support cost. Additionally the life of the equipment would offer more than twice the longevity of Microsoft's proposed donation. This would further reduce the strain on school budgets by extending the support costs over a five year verses a two-year period of time.

(The factors of 10 and 3.6 are a few years old and need to be researched to see if they have changed recently.)

If we are to teach our children the values of honesty and integrity it should be that these values are important. Letting the proposed settlement stand only teaches them that success is based on lies and theft.

If you want to teach justice the only way is to impose the severest of penalties which must include significant jail time for all those involved. Anything less is to reward the criminals involved.

Sincerely,

George Lawrence Storm

George Lawrence Storm

1916 Pike Place / Suite 12 / #441
Seattle, Washington 98101
Telephone: (206) 334 - 7236
E-mail: keencoyote@earthlink.net